



STEWARDS ACADEMY

SCIENCE SPECIALIST

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Headteacher: Mrs H. Ginger BSc Mathematical Sciences

1st March 2021

RE: OFQUAL'S DECISION ON HOW GCSE GRADES WILL BE DETERMINED IN 2021

Dear Parent/Carers

As a result of the disruption students and learners have faced due to the pandemic, the government has said that many exams and assessments cannot be held this year in a way which is fair. All parts of the education system are working together to make sure that pupils are still able to get your grades and can carry on with their lives, whether that is continuing with education or training, or going into the workplace. To be of value, qualifications must reflect what pupils know, understand and can do and must be widely understood and respected.

We appreciate that this is a stressful time. There has been a great deal of uncertainty, and many pupils will have missed out, not just on teaching and learning, but on the support offered by face-to-face contact with fellow students, friends and family.

With the recent announcement by the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson regarding the decision to use Teacher Assessed Grades for 2021 GCSE results I would like to share the following information with you.

For GCSEs, teachers will assess the standard at which pupils are performing based only on what they have been taught so that the school can determine their grade. Teachers' judgements should be based on a range of evidence relating to the subject content that teachers have delivered, either in the classroom or via remote learning.

Teachers will be able to use evidence about pupil's performance gathered throughout the course to inform their judgement. This might include work that pupils have already completed, mock exam results, homework or in-class tests. Teachers may also use questions from exam boards, largely based on past papers, to help assess pupils, but this won't be compulsory.

It's important that pupils keep engaged in their learning and study as long as possible so that their hard work can be considered in their grade. And it will stand them in good stead for the next stage of their life. Teachers will tell pupils which pieces of work will count towards their grade before their grade is submitted to the exam board.



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Pupils will need to continue to work on their coursework. We know that for some pupils, this will be more difficult, especially if they needed specialist equipment at school. Teachers will mark your coursework and it will contribute to your overall grade, whether or not it has been completed.

For GCSE art and design, your grade will be based on your portfolio only, whether or not you have finished it. And for GCSE English language, GCSE modern foreign languages the school will submit a separate grade or result for the spoken language or practical skills tested, based on work that you have completed.

We are currently working on the finer details of how this will be managed at Stewards. We are confident that we will be able to create a manageable, appropriate, and fair system for awarding grades. Further information will be shared with pupils and parents during week commencing 8th March.

Please be assured that your son/daughter will be provided with all the support they need to be successful and prepare them for the next stage in their education.

Kind regards,

Mr M Harman